

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 /021 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR,JR.:EW

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NEA/ARP - COCECIL

SCA/SCS - RBELT (SUBS)

MARAD - HCASEY

----- 123277

P 032136Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:CGEN, EPRS, EWWT,(US FLAG SHIP LASH ATLANTICO)

SUBJECT:DETENTION OF LASH ATLANTICO

REF: JIDDA 7749

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED REPORT THAT FOLLOWING COLLISION REPORTED REFTEL, LASH ATLANTICO WAS DETAINED BY SAG AUTHORITIES AND IS STILL BEING HELD ALTHOUGH HEARINGS ON COLLISION HELD NOVEMBER 29-30. (VESSEL'S OWNERS, PRUDENTIAL LINES, REPORT THAT HEARING FOUND LASH ATLANTICO AT FAULT BUT PRAISED CAPTAIN FOR TAKING ACTION WHICH PREVENTED LOSS OF LIFE ON SAUDI PILOT BOAT AND CRITICIZED ANATOLI CAPTAIN FOR NOT TAKING EFFECTIVE ACTION TO SAVE HIS SHIP.)

2. PRUDENTIAL INFORMS US THAT, IN KEEPING WITH NORMAL MARITIME PRACTICE, IT HAS OFFERED TO POST BOND TO OBTAIN SHIP'S RELEASE. PRUDENTIAL HAS ALSO AGREED T'AT JIDDA PORT WILL BE HELD HARMLESS (I.E., NOT LIABLE), AND PRUDENTIAL'S UNDERWRITERS HAVE GIVEN GUARANTEE THAT WRECK
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OF ANATOLI WOULD BE CLEARED UP. IN ADDITION, PRUDENTIAL

REPORTS THAT ANATOLI'S UNDERWRITERS HAVE AGREED TO GIVE
SIMILAR GUARANTEE REGARDING WRECK REMOVAL.

3. FYI. PRUDENTIAL HAS BEEN DEALING WITH JIDDA PORT
AUTHORITIES ON ALL THESE MATTERS. HOWEVER, SINCE ANATOLI
ANCHORED OUTSIDE PORT AREA WHEN COLLISION OCCURRED,
PRUDENTIAL QUESTIONS WHETHER PORT AUTHORITIES ACTING
WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION IN REQUIRING WRECK REMOVAL
GUARANTEES AND BELIEVES WRECK REMOVAL MAY ACTUALLY BELONG
IN JURISDICTION OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE
SAG PORT AND/OR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND URGE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF LASH ATLANTICO. (FYI. DETENTION OF VESSEL
COSTING OWNERS AND OPERATORS APPROXIMATELY 35,000 DOLLARS
PER DAY. END FYI.) EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT USG
BELIEVES THAT PRUDENTIAL HAS TAKEN ALL NORMAL AND REASON-
ABLE MEASURES AND THAT CONTINUED SAG DETENTION OF VESSEL
NOT JUSTIFIED. EMBASSY SHOULD COORDINATE APPROACHES
WITH PRUDENTIAL AGENT MCCALL OR JIDDA KANOO. PLEASE
REPORT RESULTS OF REPRESENTATIONS ASAP. KISSINGER

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